

THE GLEMSFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk, and the Sudbury Union.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1909.

Prepared in accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board and
of the West Suffolk County Council.

Population 1891, 2375 ; 1901, 1975. Area in Acres, 2246. Number of persons
per acre 0·9.

Inhabited houses 456. Average number of persons per house 4·3.

Physical site, on boulder clay above the Stour Valley, chalk underlying at depth of 130 ft.

The Parish of Glemsford obtained Urban powers in 1896. Prior to this formed part of
the Melford Rural District

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of births registered during the year was 28 equivalent to a birth-rate of 14·7 per 1000 of the population. The birth-rates during the previous seven years were as follows :

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Births	40	46	46	41	32	40	30	28
Birth-rate	20·3	23·2	23·2	20·7	16·2	20·3	15·1	14·7

DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes registered during the year was 23, to which have to be added 1 death of a person belonging to the district, which occurred in the Workhouse, Sudbury, making the total deaths 24, equivalent to a death-rate of 12·6 per 1000 of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the previous seven years were as follows :

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Deaths	30	37	26	32	28	32	22	24
Death-rate	14·2	18·2	13·1	16·2	14·1	16·2	11·1	12·6

Infantile Mortality. There were 3 deaths under one year of age equivalent to 107·1 per 1000 of births registered.

The following is the record for the last seven years :

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Deaths of children under one year	7	7	6	4	2	8	2	3
Rate per 1000 of births registered	163·1	152·1	130·4	97·7	62·5	200·0	66·6	107·1

The above statistics show that the decline in the number of births still continues ; a decline that is very general. The deaths and infantile mortality, though higher than last year, are below the average.

There were no deaths from any of the Zymotic diseases, nor from Phthisis. There were 5 deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, and 5 from Heart diseases. Eight of the deaths were of persons over the age of 65.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION. There were received 3 notifications during the year ; one each of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Erysipelas. In none of these was there any Insanitary defect found on inspection, nor any spread of infection ensued.

Several cases of Measles occurred in the summer, but not to an epidemic extent.

TUBERCULOSIS. No cases of Phthisis under the " Poor Law " were notified.

SCHOOLS. There is one Elementary School, the offices and general sanitation of class-rooms are well looked after. The water supply is derived from the public waterworks. There is a good playground attached. The Medical Inspection of the school children is carried out by the whole time Inspector.

HOUSES. The majority of the houses are occupied by the working classes; they are adequate and generally in good condition, with open spaces and garden ground about the houses, or convenient allotments. The cleanliness of surroundings is well maintained. One case of overcrowding was reported, and not being abated after notice, legal proceedings were taken, and the family moved into a larger house.

WATER SUPPLY. The quantity of water naturally rising from the deep bore tube continues undiminished, and the quality steadily improves. The very slight trace of iron suspension found in this excellent water is sure to diminish with continual use.

SEWERS AND DRAINS. The privy cesspools and pail system is the only mode of dealing with excremental sewage, this is disposed of chiefly on garden and allotment ground. The sewers and drains are only used in the district for slop and storm water. A new six inch sewer has been laid, 155 yards long, draining ten cottages on Tye Green, and effecting a much needed improvement in that neighbourhood. Three ditches have been cleaned out, one in Bells lane being in a very foul state; the liability of keeping this ditch clean was formally accepted by Messrs. Kolle and Son, who discharged trade refuse into it. Since the close of this factory, this Council have undertaken the cleaning of the ditch.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. There are only now two Factories, one is for silk spinning and winding, and one machinist works, the horse-hair seating and mat weaving factories being closed. There are 17 workshops, 3 of these are for hackling and drawing horsehair, employing only a few hands; the hair is sorted before reception, and then before being handled is placed in a warm water tank containing 1 per cent of Cyllin which is officially considered to destroy anthrax spores both in the hair and the effluent. I made a special inspection of these workshops last August, owing to the death of two bullocks from anthrax, they having access to an unprotected ditch, into which one of these effluents discharged, but I could not attribute their deaths to this cause.

All the factories and workshops, also 5 bake-houses were inspected. No complaints have been received from H. M. Inspector of Factories.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. There is only one registered Cowshed and Dairy in the district, all the cows are grass grazed. It has been inspected and fulfils all the requirements as prescribed in the model regulations, 1905.

In addition to this, there are five persons who keep 2 or 3 cows each and have cowsheds for same and small dairies, they generally make butter, chiefly for themselves, though they sell some milk and butter to their neighbours. All of these have been inspected during the year and were found to be kept in accordance to the provisions of the Dairy, Cowshed and Milkshop Order.

The following is the Report of the Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. H. L. Taylor.

Number of Houses and Premises now connected with the waterworks mains, 343. The average consumption per head of water during last quarter, for all purposes was 3.1 gallons per day.

Number of Ditches cleaned out	3
„ of New Pail Closets erected	2
„ of Old Cesspools converted into Pail Closets	7
„ of Nuisances remedied by written notices	16
„ of Nuisances remedied by verbal notices	50
„ of Inspections made in connection with Factories and Workshops	24
„ of Inspections of out-workers premises	43
„ of other Inspections	350

GENERAL SANITATION. Systematic as well as constant special inspections have been made during the year, as embodied in this report.

Legal proceedings were necessary during the year in one case of overcrowding—abated.

Tabular statements according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board of the statistics of births, deaths, and sickness within the district are appended to the Official reports.

J. SINCLAIR HOLDEN, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.